

BURLINGAME, ANSON

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Anson Burlingame

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The Journal.

Man, know thyself. All wisdom centers there;
To none man seems ignoble, but to man.—Young.

ANSON BURLINGAME, THE CHINESE MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY.

THE interest displayed in the remarkable mission which this distinguished American has undertaken in behalf of the Chinese Government is universal; and it would therefore be no slight omission did we not present his portrait to our widely disseminated readers.

Mr. Burlingame exhibits temperamentally a combination of the Vital and Mental, a condition which produces much ardor of feeling and unusual sprightliness of mind. He is harmoniously developed in body, the recuperative organs furnishing abundant material for the use of his mechanical and nervous forces, so



PORTRAIT OF ANSON BURLINGAME.

that his different powers work with vigor, efficiency, and but little friction.

His social feelings are strong, rendering him genial and friendly, affectionate

and accommodating. The head rises high in the moral region, showing considerable interest in truth, justice, and religion, while at the same time he evidently possesses much pride and staunchness of character, which serve to strengthen and ennoble his manhood.

He has a sharp and practical intellect; readily appreciates the point and utility of whatever is proposed to his judgment, and quickly decides on the merits or demerits of questions. He possesses considerable executive ability by cerebral organization, which his sprightly temperament and positive intellect stimulate to active and prompt demonstration. He is industrious naturally, and at the same time ambitious to accomplish much more than what lies within the province of mediocrity. A good development of Hope inspires much enthusiasm in his nature, and renders him sanguine in expectation and influential with others.

Without the abstract philosophical profundity of the mere theorist, he possesses the practical energy and readiness of the utilitarian, and is the man to appreciate the real character of men and things, and adapt substantial means to the attainment of valuable ends.

He should, in fine, be known for his ambition, independence, resolution, promptness, cheerfulness, industry, warmth of social feeling, practical ability, manliness, and integrity.

BIOGRAPHY.

Hon. Anson Burlingame, Minister Plenipotentiary from China, was born at New Berlin, New York, November 14, 1822. While a mere child his father moved to the "Western Reserve," Ohio, and not long afterward to the (then) Territory of Michigan. At the Detroit Academy, and at the branch University of Michigan established in Detroit, young Burlingame found good opportunities for intellectual culture. After completing the collegiate course he entered the Law-school of Harvard, then enriched by the presence and instruction of Judge Story. Having received the Baccalaureate there, he opened an office in Boston in company with Mr. Briggs, and commenced the practice of law.

From the first he displayed much interest in politics; and soon after he had attached himself to the Boston bar, he was sent to the Massachusetts Senate, and subsequently was elected a member of the State Constitutional Convention by the town of Northboro'.

In 1853, being but thirty-one years old, he was elected to represent the district comprising Boston and Cambridge in Congress, and served in that capacity six years. He early acquired

prominence for oratorical ability, and, though one of the youngest members, exercised no little influence in the House of Representatives. He did not speak often; but when he did rise to address the chair, his language was emphatic and directly to the point. Probably his most memorable speech was that made on the occasion of the cowardly assault on Charles Sumner by Preston S. Brooks. Smarting under the wrongs of Massachusetts, he threw down the glove to the pro-slavery men of the South, and declared himself ready to defend freedom of speech and the State he represented on any field they might be assailed. Brooks sent a challenge. Mr. Burlingame accepted, and named a rifle. His father, a pioneer of the Daniel Boone type, though a stern old Puritan, had taught his son to be a "dead shot." The "fire-eater" Brooks was probably aware of this unpleasant fact, and failed to respond.

During the exciting political campaigns of 1856 to 1860 he canvassed the whole country, speaking in almost every State, and addressed many literary societies on the great topics of the day. Mr. Lincoln, shortly after his inaugural, tendered him the mission to Austria. Austria refused to receive him, because he was instrumental in raising the mission to Sardinia from the second to the first class, thus recognizing that great idea of Count Cavour's, "the unification of Italy." This act of Austria might have been questioned; but as the United States had a war at home to settle, it was thought better to transfer Mr. B. to China, and attend to Austria at a more convenient time.

Mr. Burlingame's career as Minister to China is well known. With Sir Frederick Bruce, Mr. Berthény, now at Washington, Mr. Balzerzech, the former, and Mr. Vlangally, the present Russian Minister, he laid the foundations of the "co-operative policy" now adopted by the chief Treaty Powers, and sustained by their present representatives at Peking. This policy substitutes fair diplomatic action for the old doctrine of force, guarantees the autonomy of China, and proposes co-operation on all material matters in that empire. He made the draft of this co-operative policy, which received the assent of his colleagues as an authoritative history and exposition of it. He drew up an elaborate paper giving a construction of the different treaties upon a great number of hitherto doubtful points. This received the approval of his colleagues.

He was conspicuous for his opposition to the "Concession Doctrine," under which it was proposed by different civilized powers to take concessions of land at the Treaty ports, and which would have led to the disruption of China. Interesting himself in the development of the resources of the Chinese empire, Mr. Burlingame prevailed upon that Government to employ an American geologist, who has demonstrated the existence of vast coal deposits in the northern districts of China. He has been instrumental, also, in furthering the cause of education among the Chinese, so that a college has been opened. The first grant of

a submarine telegraph connecting the Treaty ports from Canton to Tien Tsin was made to Mr. Burlingame; and pursuant to his suggestion, "Wheaton's Elements of International Law" have been translated into Chinese at the expense of the Imperial Government, and has become a national text-book.

Mr. Burlingame has contributed much toward aiding mission effort among the "Celestials," where not many years ago no such enterprise found the slightest sympathy, but rather malicious opposition. Stations are now established on the plains of Mongolia, and are doing a good work with encouraging success.

The most important measure, probably, for the advancement of China in the interests of civilization, and that which has brought our fellow-countryman most conspicuously into notice, is the authoritative mission with which he is now invested, to represent the Chinese Government at the courts of all the Treaty Powers. Sir Rutherford Alcock said: "It is the greatest compliment ever paid to any man, and Mr. Burlingame deserves it."

Mr. Burlingame was on the point of visiting the thirteen Treaty ports, and then returning to the United States. Prince Kung had invited him to a farewell banquet, and during the ceremonies said: "Will your Excellency represent us officially as well as non-officially at the courts of the Treaty Powers?" Mr. Burlingame, supposing it was a graceful Chinese compliment, said that he would represent them unofficially as a friend, and the conversation passed into other channels. He was very much surprised when Mr. Brown, the Chinese secretary of the English Legation, called on him a few days after with a formal proposition from the Prince Regent Kung tendering him the mission. Mr. Burlingame, after very serious consideration and grave consultation with his friends, determined to accept it. He instantly communicated all the facts to his colleagues. They very kindly approved and rejoiced at this progressive step taken by China. Prince Kung came in solemn state to the United States Legation and presented the imperial decree, which bears date November 26, 1867, and is written on heavy yellow parchment, wrapped in yellow brocade satin, the imperial color, and encased in a yellow box. He has given him the title of Ambassador, and clothed him with the most ample powers.

The following interesting paragraphs, taken from a New York paper of June 25th last, are well worth a place in our sketch. They serve to show that China, after all, is not the slow and pent-up nation which she has been so long represented to be.

"Fourteen hundred years ago—it is the recorded evidence of written history—the Buddhist priests of China, representing a civilization and religion young enough to be aggressive, and led by missionary zeal, forced their way into our continent through its northwestern gate—Alaska—and explored intelligently and with tolerable thoroughness the Pacific slope.

"This is history, although Mr. Sumner has not embodied it in his exhaustive oration. Professor Carl Neuman, of Munich, whose name accredits all his statements, while in China, where he spent many years in a study of Chinese antiquities and bibliography, having collected, perhaps, the best China library extant, out of that kingdom, found in the year-books of the empire this fact well established. Those famous volumes have been preserved in that conservative country with marvelous care and accuracy, second only, perhaps, to that with which they were written. This distinguished scholar from these learned the story of the wonderful travels of the fifth century. Impelled by the laudable desire to carry their faith to the ends of the world, the priests of that day ventured the snows of the north and the stormy passage of the Aleutian isles, gained our western shore, and penetrated into Mexico. This was the country which struck them with especial admiration, and of which they have left flowing and impassioned descriptions. They called it the land of Fusung,—fusung being the Chinese name for the maguey or Mexican aloe, the fecund and wondrous tree which furnished the indolent and sensuous natives with shelter, clothing, and drink.

"This marvelous episode of history has passed out of memory, out of common tradition, and had almost been buried in the *debris* of forgotten records,—the pub. docs. of fourteen centuries ago. The time had not yet come,—the religion of the East was broad enough for all the lands. The heart and conscience of the world had not been awakened to the duties and responsibilities of the common brotherhood of race, and the bravery, and devotion, and learning of the old Buddhist priests went for nothing, or at least served only to point an ephemeral tale.

"The intercourse between continent and continent, which the long years have buried in oblivion, is to-day strangely renewed. The embassy headed by Mr. Burlingame is only another page of the bewildering romance, grander than the wildest flights of Oriental fancy, that crowds our swiftly advancing decade. No one can read the report of the banquet just given to the embassy, and the speeches made, as related yesterday, without emotions of intense intellectual excitement. The whole scene is a grand and impressive tribute to our advancing civilization. It tells of a latent strength in our undeveloped catholicity, which is working out for us a future we could not perhaps now even comprehend. And our country leads the van, "foremost in the files of time," and our radical, aggressive, moving party leads the country. *Gloria tibi, Domine.*"

PHRENOLOGY IN THE SCHOOL-ROOM.—A teacher in Pennsylvania says: "During the last five years the science of Phrenology has been of vast service to me. It has rendered the school-room one of the most pleasant of places, and its inmates among the happiest of persons." Every earnest teacher who tests Phrenology thus, will confirm this testimony.

PHRENO-ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE possible union of the English Phrenological and Ethnological bodies is now quite a prominent subject of discussion both in London and Edinburgh. In Germany, the "modern" ethnologists have pretty generally accepted the doctrines of Phrenology; but still "that citadel of bigoted prejudices," as a German ethnologist styled the English ethnological world, holds out. Dr. Hunt, a member of the London Anthropological Society, at the last session of that body in 1867, chose to attack the phrenological axiom, that "the brain is the organ of the mind," which he designated as a "gigantic assumption, because we know nothing of mind," and added: "We only know of mental phenomena in connection with the nervous system." In the course of his remarks he also made use of the expression of "the bastard science of Phrenology." His absurdities have, however, been pretty severely refuted by other members of the same body. J. W. Jackson, F.A.S.L., the author of several works on ethno-phrenological subjects—a long-tried, and one of the ablest defenders of Phrenology in the United Kingdom—took up the subject, and at the annual social meeting of the Edinburgh Phrenological Society, on the 21st of October, 1867, delivered a lecture from which we extract the following remarks:

"It is one of the most important events in the history of Phrenology, that it had thus been introduced to the notice of the Anthropological Society of London. He trusted to remove the adverse impression which appeared to exist on this subject. He would not, however, derange the order of the remarks he intended to make on the history and prospects of Phrenology. He would proceed to make a few observations on the errors of their predecessors, and on the manner in which their deficiencies may be supplemented, and add to the list of their discoveries by employment of clearer views and renewed energy. First, it was to be admitted that from the absolutely inductive method in which the several organs now constituting the phrenological chart were discovered, by a most careful comparison of character with cranial contours, extending over many hundred individual instances, it was almost unavoidable that Gall and his immediate followers should be organologists, thus exaggerating the importance of particular organs, regarded separately, and proportionately undervaluing the grander outlines of cranial contour. In accordance with the materialistic spirit of the age in which they lived, they assigned too much importance to quantity while disregarding quality. They continually rang changes on the size of organs and volume of brain, while temperament was spoken of rather incidentally, till at length it came to pass that large heads were regarded practically as the test of superior endowment. Cerebral development was also regarded as almost the sole index of character, and consequently they underestimated the significance of the remaining portions of the organism.

They were but imperfectly aware of the importance of respiration, alimentation, and locomotion to effective cerebration, and hence were not sufficiently careful in their observations on the chest, the abdomen, and the limbs and the extremities. They did not sufficiently understand that the organism is a structure integer, and not a mere congeries of isolated organs and independent functions. These errors marked the progress from ignorance to knowledge. After a pause of nearly a quarter of a century, Phrenology has entered upon its second phase of development, and the original founders of the science have lost much of their hold upon the reverence of the men of the present age. It is now necessary to look to the future rather than to the past, so as to prepare for the demands modern science is likely to make upon the professors of Phrenology. It was necessary to cease being only cerebral physiologists. Physiognomy must be studied, a bipolar relation between head and face being admitted, the functional activity of the former being often predicable from the predominant expression of the latter. Temperament should be studied in connection with anatomy and physiology, to learn their reaction on cerebration. The brain must also be studied pathologically as to quantity, quality, and contour. This would supply a new chapter to medical science, supply the physician with data hitherto unknown, for estimating constitutional tendencies. It was desirable to advance from human to comparative Phrenology by a careful comparison of the brains of brutes with their known habits and instincts. This should extend from the simplest radiata, through the mollusca, articulata, and vertebrata, up to man. The vertebrata would probably be found the most interesting, and among these the mammalia, as nearest to man; but the lower divisions should not be neglected, as in the articulata, for instance, we find the ant and the bee, with whom blind instinct assumes the form of a high intelligence. In such an inquiry it is most important to take into consideration the racial diversities of man, and by a careful comparison of these different types to endeavor to ascertain the conditions which determine their respective places in the scale of rational being. In this phrenologists would be aided by a study of those grander divisions of the nearly allied mammalia, termed by Prof. Owen *Lyncephala* (small brain), such as kangaroo; *Lissencephala* (smooth brain), such as sloth; *Gyrencephala* (convoluted brain), such as the ape, lion, dog, elephant—approaching so nearly, yet differing so from the *Archencephala* (governing brain), whereof the only existing example are the various races of men.

"Without insisting on the truth of a suggestion already familiar to some present, that man, as the aerial type of these quadrupedal mammalia, must ultimately produce profoundly correlative orders, species, and genera, whereof existing races and varieties are the germinal beginning; and contemplating the mammal brutes as simply the type of sentient being most nearly allied to man, we may feel sure



